

So I believe that it is imperative to think creatively about inducements that can be offered to induce North Korea to relinquish its nuclear ambitions. Implementation of several relatively modest nonnuclear energy sector initiatives—introducing market institutions to the North Korean energy sector; undertaking efforts to repair the existing electric grid; rehabilitating coal supply and transport; eliminating waste; and underwriting small-scale renewable projects—would provide for a stable energy sector for North Korea in the near and intermediate term. And, as part of a process of larger diplomatic engagement with North Korea, this can contribute significantly to defusing the current crisis.

There is no evidence that North Korea has started to reprocess. North Korea may well be determined to go down the nuclear path and a nuclear North Korea may well be an unavoidable consequence of the current crisis. But nothing is yet set in stone, and at a time of increasing uncertainty the world looks to the United States to lead. And there is no better way to underscore our seriousness than through direct negotiations. Such talks are all the more important when dealing with an isolated, tyrannical and bellicose regime, because miscommunication can all too easily lead to miscalculation, with possibly catastrophic consequences.

REAUTHORIZING THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey published in November 2001 reported that almost 7 percent of State inmates and more than 9 percent of Federal inmates carried military-style semiautomatic weapons in carrying out the crime for which they were convicted. In 1997, roughly 43 percent of inmates who carried a military-style semiautomatic or fully automatic weapon fired it and more than 25 percent of them killed or injured their victim.

Military-style semiautomatic weapons are modifications of traditional semiautomatic weapons. They incorporate features intended to give users an advantage in combat situations. Such features include but are not limited to: pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The 1994 semiautomatic assault weapons ban prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and accept a detachable magazine. Preexisting military-style semiautomatic weapons were not banned.

The semiautomatic assault weapons ban will expire on Sept. 13, 2004. If the law is not reauthorized, the production of military-style semiautomatic weapons can legally resume. As the Bureau of Justice Statistics study illustrates, the use of military-style semiautomatic weapons is already a widely used

option for many in the criminal population. Restarting production of these weapons will obviously increase their number and availability. Such an increase does not bode well for public safety.

It is critical that we reauthorize the semiautomatic assault weapons ban. We should not wait for new statistics to demonstrate that more criminals are turning to newly manufactured military-style semiautomatic weapons. Existing evidence of past behavior is clear. If we wait, more damage will already have been done. Military-style semiautomatic weapons represent a danger to the lives of police officers and the general public. For the safety of our Nation's citizens, the Congress should act this year.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. In the last Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Act, a bill that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred September 19, 2001, in Pittsburgh, PA. A 43-year-old man attacked a 22-year-old Pakistani-born university student. The student was walking home from classes when he was alarmed to see a stranger charging after him, his arms already swinging. As he punched and kicked the student, the attacker yelled, "Are you from Afghanistan?" and "I'm going to kill you!" A nearby construction worker managed to stop the attacker, who then fled.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

CLUSTER BOMBS AND LANDMINES IN IRAQ

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we can all celebrate the collapse of Saddam Hussein's brutal, corrupt regime. While much remains to be done to rebuild Iraq and reassure the Arab world that the United States is a liberator, not a conqueror, and that we have no intention of imposing our will on the Iraqi people, the demise of such a tyrant should be universally welcomed.

As we reflect on the past 3 weeks of war, we should above all pay tribute to the extraordinary courage and professionalism of our Armed Forces. They conducted themselves in ways that should make all of us proud.

We should also make note of the vast arsenal of modern weapons which en-

abled them to prevail. These weapons have devastated Iraqi troops, armor, and military infrastructure.

We have seen on television how effective our precision-guided missiles and bombs are, and we can only imagine how many civilian casualties were avoided because of their accuracy. It is partly because we have such increasingly accurate weapons that I want to discuss an issue that concerns me, and that is the use of cluster bombs by our forces in Iraq.

Cluster bombs, otherwise known as "submunitions" or "bomblets," are strewn by aircraft or artillery over a wide area. They can be as small as a baseball. They are designed to detonate on impact and scatter deadly shrapnel in every direction. However, on average some 2-20 percent do not explode on impact. Instead, they remain on the surface of the ground, often hidden by sand or vegetation, where they lie in wait for some unsuspecting child, farmer, or other innocent person. They also pose a grave danger to U.S. forces in the area.

The United States military dropped millions of cluster bombs on Laos during the Vietnam war. Today, over 30 years later, they continue to maim and kill innocent people. The cost of removing these tiny, lethal weapons is prohibitive for an impoverished country like Laos. The United States Agency for International Development, through the Leahy War Victims Fund, is aiding some of the severely disabled victims of these indiscriminate weapons.

More recently, the United States has used cluster bombs in several countries, including Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq during the first gulf war, and, according to reports, again in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In the first gulf war, U.S. planes dropped more than 24 million submunitions on Iraq, leaving roughly 1.2 million duds which resulted in over 1,600 Kuwaiti and Iraqi civilian deaths and an additional 2,500 injured following the war. The cost of clearing these duds and other unexploded ordnance was in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

In 1995 in Bosnia, U.S. military officers reportedly banned the use of cluster bombs because they were seen to present an unacceptable risk to civilians. However, 3 years later, during the NATO air campaign in Yugoslavia, U.S., British and Dutch military aircraft dropped more than 295,000 submunitions. The U.N. Mine Action Coordination Center estimated that more than 20,000 live bomblets remained after the war, and the International Committee of the Red Cross reported that in the year following the war there were 151 reported casualties due to cluster bombs.

The U.S. Air Force has used cluster bombs in Afghanistan, where, predictably, they have caused the deaths of innocent civilians. Additionally, the appearance of the yellow bomblets bore a